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Dr M to visit Bosnia-Herzegovina

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to make a one-day visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina next week, several days after his short working visit to London.

Dr Mahathir, who was awarded Bosnia's highest award - the Dragon of Bosnia Award in April 1996 - is scheduled to visit several sites which Malaysia helped rebuild in the the Balkan state.

Dr Mahathir will be accompanied by his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali. Press Secretary to the Prime Minister, Zakaria A. Wabah, said Dr Mahathir was also expected to meet Bosnian president Alija Izetbegovic.

At the height of the Bosnian conflict, when thousands of Bosnians were killed through ethnic-cleansing genocide, Dr Mahathir was among those instrumental in highlighting the conflict in Malaysia.

A non-governmental organisation - Barisan Bertindak Bosnia - actively campaigned to help ease the burden of the suffering Bosnians. Rallies and concerts were held throughout Malaysia to highlight the plight of the Bosnians, some of whom fled to Malaysia as refugees.

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